

COMMUNITY POLICE REVIEW COMMISSION POLICY RECOMMENDATION

RPD Policy and Procedure 9.1 Police Reports

Rationale for the Policy Recommendation:

As a result of an investigation into a citizen's complaint, it was found that there is no tolerance for minor errors in the RPD Policy & Procedures, even when those errors do not alter the facts of the case and are easily correctable. As a result, when an officer makes one of these "harmless" errors and it is the subject of a complaint, that complaint allegation must be "Sustained." The Commission believes that this practice is too restrictive.

This should not be construed to mean that the Commission believes that "harmless" errors should be overlooked, but that those individual instances should not be handled as disciplinary issues. If the problem is a persistent one, the Commission believes the officer's competence is at issue and should be handled under RPD Policy & Procedure 2.1 or a similar policy dealing with the officer's ability to perform his or her duty.

Policy Recommendation:

1. The Community Police Review Commission recommends that RPD Policy & Procedure 9.1 be modified so that "harmless" errors, while not acceptable, are not treated in the discipline system unless they are persistent. Then the errors, as a group, will be used to show an officer's lack of competency.

Bill Howe, Chairperson
Community Police Review Commission